

EPWORTH LEAGUE.

Lesson For the Week Beginning Feb. 24. Comment by Rev. Walter J. Yates, A. M.

Topic, The Ark of the Covenant.

BIBLE READING.—Ex. xxv, 10-16; Heb. ix, 4, 5; John iv, 23.

A wooden box about four feet long and a little more than two feet deep and two feet broad, covered with plates of fine gold, was the ark, preserved with great care as the most sacred thing in the tabernacle. The value was not in the box itself, nor in the money and of pure gold which covered it, having the figures of cherubim of hammered gold at each end, with wings meeting in the center and shadowing the sacred chest. The simple stone tablets engraved with the ten commands, "the Decalogue," was the treasure which it was built to contain. Their value lay in their contents and not in the material of which they were composed.

This was Jehovah's law to Israel. He promised to be with them in all their future life, a people if they obeyed this law. They on their part pledged themselves by solemn oath to obey His commands. This was the "Covenant." So this became the ark, the chest of the covenant. It was also the ark of the "testimony," as the tables of stone were called.

This chest, with its mercy seat cover, was placed in the innermost room of the tent and temple, which had no opening into it except the door which was covered by a curtain. The tablets of the testimony were not to be taken out for reference nor for resort to the people. The mercy seat was not to be approached as will when guidance was desired of God regarding the affairs of the nation. Only once in the year was this inner sanctuary to be entered, and the most sacred shrine approached. Even then no one but the high priest might venture to look upon this secret dwelling place of the Most High One, and then always with blood of sacrifice in a gold bowl, with which blood he was to sprinkle the mercy seat between the cherubim. The meaning of this is made most clear in the epistle to the Hebrews, ninth chapter.

The law of God announced for the moral guidance of men has never been and in the nature of the case can never be repealed or annulled. The old dispensation served to give knowledge of it, but ability to keep it perfectly was lacking. In the new order of things under Christ one of the race has entered the holiest place of the Most High to ever abide under the shadow of the Almighty. The veil of separation has been forever torn aside that all may enter who will. The law is no longer on hidden slabs of stone, but the new covenant declared of God is: "I will put my laws into their mind and write them in their hearts. I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." "True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth."

Other Army Corps.

Methodism is not one organic body. Even in the United States there are nearly a dozen branches of the Methodist family. The largest in numbers, most wealthy and perhaps the most influential is the Methodist Episcopal. Next in prominence is the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Canada Methodist, since the consolidation of all its divisions into one body, has become one of the most influential churches, if not the very first in importance, in that country. The Epworth League began as a consolidation of the five large societies existing in the Methodist Episcopal church in May, 1883. The Church South and the Canadian church organized their societies with the same general name, but under the government of their own authorities. So will each of the other branches of Methodism probably do. The Wesleyans of England, Australia, India and other regions are swinging into line. Each is a separate army corps. Our international convention at Chattanooga, Tenn., June 27-30, will gather delegates from all over the world. Fraternal consultation, and not organic union, is the object of that gathering. Probably at the close we shall be a little nearer the practical solution of the problem of Christian church union, but no schemes for tinkering the machinery are contemplated. Demonstration of fraternal unity will be given in the sacrament of holy communion with which the services will open.

The Best of Each Kind. Much emphasis is sometimes laid on the fact that Christ chose the lowliest men for his apostles. The success of the unlearned in revival and reform work is sometimes emphasized as if that was all that is needed for the work of the church of God on earth. It should not be forgotten that when Jehovah wanted to make Israel a nation he chose a Moses as leader. When Christianity needed an expounder and defender for the gentile world, God laid his hand on a Saul of Tarsus. So has it been in all subsequent times. There is work for Augustine, Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin and Wesley as truly as for Moody, Booth, Taylor and the other hearts of fire. Each in his place and all in harmony is the need. The best of each kind and each at his best moves the work of God forward in his appointed way.

The Reading Course. Thousands in all parts of the world have found profit and great pleasure in the various Chautauques that have been their inauguration 20 years ago. Many who have felt unable to pursue so advanced and long a course find in that of the Epworth League what is adapted to their needs. There is variety sufficient for all tastes and requirements. If one is pressed for time in a busy life, it is remarkable how much information and real culture can be had in expounding old minutes and reading systematically a few really excellent books rather than letting them slip by unemployed or in reading whatever chance to fall in the way. Careless and indistinct reading is as surely fatal to mental strength and health as careless eating is productive of dyspepsia.

The Faithful Sisters. Show—1—think I like you, Mr. Trotter, but I cannot marry you, my dear sister, until she is engaged. No—yes—no—this is just what she said when I renounced her.—Harlem Life.

The U. S. Gov't Reports show Royal Baking Powder superior to all others.

WOMAN'S WORLD

MISS WINDSCHIED'S TRIUMPH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG.

A Single Rose In Her Hair—Not a Woman's Voice Was Heard—A Roman Catholic View.

Mrs. Stanton-Blatch—London Women Writers' Club.

The triumph of Miss Kate Windschied in being graduated from the old University of Heidelberg with the title of doctor of philosophy is a triumph for all German women. She is the first woman to win this distinction in Germany, and she won it from the proudest and oldest university of the fatherland and against prejudice and traditions which heretofore had been insurmountable.

The theory—or fact rather—of the intellectual equality of men and women has never been admitted by Germans in general, although they have read proofs of it in their copies of Plato and the pages of thousands of other writers. They kept not only the professional schools at the universities closed to women, but the gymnasiums, or colleges, and forced the clever ones to quench their thirst for knowledge in the so-called "seminaries" whose curriculum was made up chiefly of history, literature and modern languages. But German women who traveled in foreign lands and read of the privileges of women in this country and England, especially in the educational line, began to grow impatient under the restrictions to which they were subject.

One of the first advances made in Germany was the establishment at Berlin of the Victoria Lyceum under the patronage of the ex-Empress Frederick, always one of the leaders in the movement for the higher education of German women. Then came last year the founding of the gymnasium at Karlsruhe and Weimar, with the same courses of study as in the institutions attended by young men. Others are to be founded in various cities, including one almost under the very walls of the ancient Heidelberg institution, from which so many men have dilated upon "the intellectual inferiority of women." But with the aid of the university regarding Miss Windschied all prejudice seems to have been overcome, and by the time that the first diplomas are granted by the women's gymnasiums in Germany will probably be open to their graduates.

Miss Windschied was born on Aug. 28, 1859, in Munich, the daughter of the late Professor Windschied, one of the most famous teachers of law on the continent. She was educated at schools in Munich, Heidelberg, Leipzig and Berlin, attending the Victoria Lyceum in the latter city. Her course there was supplemented by studies in England, where she worked much in the British museum. In 1890, having been a teacher in the meantime, she began the study of philosophy at the university and was graduated a few weeks ago. The subject of her thesis was, "The English Pastoral Poetry From 1579 to 1825."

Miss Windschied has an interesting face, kindness being expressed in almost every feature. Her type is purely German.—New York Tribune.

A Single Rose In Her Hair. The latest style of coiffure which finds favor in Paris is long and narrow. The hair may be arranged in a coil or a knot, as fancy dictates, taking care to adjust it at a becoming point on the head, but it must be elongated by an extra twist or two little curls at the back, which may be added for evening dress. The present mode of waving the hair all over the head still holds its popularity, but the front parting, which has been such a struggle to obtain, is to disappear entirely. The front hair is to be slightly back pulled down in careless waves on the forehead and arranged loosely at the side so it will droop slightly over the ears in a seemingly disorderly way, which is perfectly tidy and very becoming to some faces.

Every woman who wishes to look her very best must study the outline of her face and shape of her head in order to arrange her hair becomingly and skillfully modify the prevailing style to display her good points and soften the defective ones.

There is an evident inclination to revive the old time fashion of elaborate headpieces, and feathers, flowers, humming birds and filigree gold and silver ornaments are worn. Several ostrich feathers are arranged well back on the head to droop a little at each side, with an Alsatian effect, and have a high standing aigret in the center. Butterflies are the most popular designs just at the moment. The wings are of filigree gold, and the bodies are enameled or jeweled with colored stones, and three of these dainty winged things form one ornament. One is a gayer jotted affair, and the wings rise from the jotted body of a bird. Artificial flowers combined with ostrich feathers form another fashionable headpiece.—New York Sun.

Not a Woman's Voice Was Heard. There were some curious contrasts at the dedication last month of the monument to the memory of Mary, the mother of Washington. Ten thousand people gathered. The president of the United States came. So did the governor of Virginia, and civil and military dignitaries without number, and the Masonic fraternity, and a band of "representative ladies." The beautiful monument, for which the loving hands of women had raised the money—the first monument ever erected by women to a woman—was duly dedicated to the memory of a good mother. George Washington's words were quoted: "All that I am I owe to my mother," and also the words of a distinguished foreigner, "If such are the mothers of America, she may well boast of illustrious sons." There were words of eloquence in praise of Mary Washington, and of the ladies of the Mary Washington association, and of American womanhood in general. All this was well. But not a woman's voice was heard. Not a woman present had the legal rights which are the unalienable possession of the most ignorant



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Scrofula Thoroughly Eradicated.

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The Bloom of Health

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man. Worse still, fine and true things about the sacredness of womanhood and the importance of moral purity were uttered, in some cases, by men whose lives made such words on their lips a mockery, and the praises of the illustrious dead were celebrated by "a generous sipping of wineglass." However, there is a day after today, and the sun that shone upon that day of white marble will yet look upon "the good time coming."—Boston Woman's Journal.

Roman Catholic View of Woman Suffrage.

The closest study of the woman of the times fails to show her "really and truly" different from the woman of a generation back, who, it appeared from the testimony of our mothers, was much the same as their mothers found her. Liking the same things in a different dress, happy with the same hopes and sorrows, expressing, wounded to the death by the same arrows of falsehood and neglect, hardening from the same causes into the same bitter, relentless, self-willed, "strong minded female," neither the "higher education," a business career, nor "the fashion" can change a woman's nature.

It is not to the ballot we must look for the best we shall yet see of woman. It is to the perfect home, the God-fearing, law-abiding, strengthening, cherishing, self-repressing home, whence the husband shall go forth to protect, to enlarge, to advance every voice that is his family hero and hereafter, secure in the faithful help and sympathy of his sheltered yet untrammelled wife; where that wife shall find enough and more than enough to fill her happy days in making beautiful and pure the smallest and weakest of her trusts. As wife, as mother, as friend, as helper in her own immediate circle, there is enough and to spare for every woman. It is the consciousness of such duties neglected; it is the scorpion lash of unsatisfied regrets for opportunities cast away, lost in view, and selfish aims for the things beyond her limits and her possibilities that produce this feverish restlessness, this acid bitterness, this vixenish bawling which marks the active woman suffragist. Truly the constitutional convention has an important question before it. And may heaven help the antifragilists for the sake of all women, whether they will or no!—Catholic Standard.

Mrs. Stanton-Blatch.

Mrs. Stanton-Blatch has just made a flying visit to this country. She came to take a second degree at Vassar college, where she graduated 13 years ago. After reading her thesis and delivering an address to the class in economics the degree of M. A. was conferred on her. Mrs. Blatch spoke nearly every day while in New York on the pending amendment and the duty of the constitutional convention to enfranchise the women of the state. She has oratorical power of a high order and spoke at the mass meeting in Cooper Institute with great effect. Her voice thrilled every heart. Before taking her seat she paused a moment at her mother's chair and imparted a fervent kiss on her cheek, while Mrs. Stanton's heart was overflowing with pride and gratitude that younger orators were coming forward to plead the cause of woman's enfranchisement. "The general awakening among American women and their great enthusiasm just now for their speedy enfranchisement," she says, "will be a fresh stimulus to the movement in England, and I shall tell them, with great satisfaction, that I have seen and heard on this side the ocean."—New York Letter.

London Women Writers' Club.

Two and a half years ago the women journalists of London, failing to obtain entrance into the orthodox men's clubs, formed a club of their own on a modest scale. The venture prospered despite male ridicule, and recently the seal of success was set upon the Women Writers' club, as it is called, by Princess Christian, one of the queen's daughters, who opened the new club premises off the Strand. Various pretty speeches were made by pretty women in pretty dresses, and much tea and thin bread and butter and cake were consumed. Some favored men who were present, among the number Thomas Hardy, novelist; George Alexander, actor, and Henry Arthur Jones, playwright, declared that the members of the Women Writers' club are a sensible, business-like lot of young and middle aged women who mostly have to earn their own living. But there is a fashionable leaven in the mass which gives it tone and insures success. One live duchess, for instance, is a member, and several other ladies of title joined the ranks some time ago, while Princess Christian is actually president.—London Correspondent.

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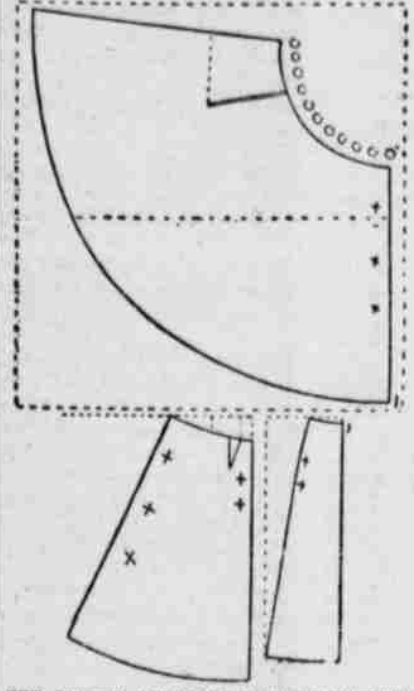
HOMEMADE DRESSES.

WHY THE GODET SKIRT IS SO DIFFICULT TO MAKE.

The Seams Must Be Sewed and Pressed to Look as if They Had Grown Together.

The Greatest Obstacle Is the Bur-nose Plait.

The fluted or godet skirt, made with five pieces, is a work of patience and art, but when finished, like all perfect things, it is a joy to the possessor. In this the front breadth is cut narrow, only 20 inches across the foot of the front piece. At the top it measures 12 inches and is to be cut on the straight, with the fold in the center. There are no darts in this. The side breadth measures 24 inches each at the



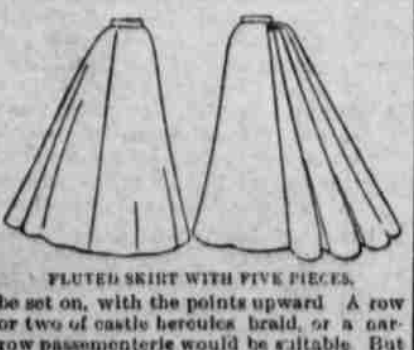
THE FLUTED OR GODET SKIRT WITH FIVE PIECES.

bottom and 18 at the top. There is one dart in the front part. The two XX's show where it joins the front. The back goes are cut from the full width of 64 inch material, with the front side against the selvage, with the thread straight by the line. The back is slightly godet. These gores measure 2 1/2 yards, so that the skirt measures 128 inches around the bottom. The top of each back breadth is 20 inches. The material, if of thick wool, should have been sponged and shrunken before cutting. Sewing seams up and carefully pressing apart are done in this skirt only after the back portions have been lined with horsehair cloth and faced up with mohair and velveta facing, the latter 4 inches wide and the former 15. The front parts should be also interfaced with horsehair cloth, the latter 4 inches deep of ten inches. The seams should be taken in very accurately and pressed until it looks as if the skirt had grown together. The placket may be on the side or in the back. The seam along the bottom must be sewed very narrow, so that when turned and pressed it may present a straight line all around. This skirt, like the three piece, should be exactly the same length all around if for walking. If for home, it may be graduated to the desired length.

When all seams are sewed and the rest of the skirt finished, these dreadful plaits are to be laid in. This must be done on a frame exactly adjusted to the size of the wearer. The front breadths are fitted to the figure by gathers, which are sewed on the belt, allowing that portion to fit like a sheath over the hips, clear to within two inches of the center of the back. Then all that superfluous fullness is to be gathered into no more than five plaits. Some of the dressmakers arrange these plaits at the top in what they call bur-nose plaits, which is really the easiest way of disposing of them. The method is shown in the diagram. As the folds take shape toward the bottom the tops should be cautiously and carefully fastened to tapes to preserve the round effect of the folds. This can be done with pins, but they must be stoutly sewed later.

These tapes should be placed at three intervals, the first three inches below the belt, the second three inches lower and the third three inches farther down. This is generally sufficient to hold the plaits in place all the way down. On the sides the skirt falls into heavy, rich folds of itself. Flat plaits to be made under in fact shape can also be formed, but the plaits do not look so well, as but two can be laid, and that is not enough to take up all the fullness in five godet skirts.

These skirts look best when quite plain, but may be adorned with a trimming of fancy pointed gulleps, white or black, may



FLUTED SKIRT WITH FIVE PIECES.

be set on, with the points upward. A row or two of castle hercules braid, or a narrow passementerie would be suitable. But whatever is put on must look as if it had grown there. When the skirt is quite finished, it should have a final pressing with hot irons unless it is velvet.

A few dressmakers advise having five gores in the back in place of the two semi-circular ones. The cloth cuts to much better advantage in that way unless there is a figure in it, but figured goods are not often seen made in this style. Silks, velvets, tulle du nord, chevrons, broadcloths, covert cloth and such kinds of goods are the most suitable. However rich or costly the material, if the work is not done in the most careful manner the skirt will fail of its effect.

OLIVE HARPER.

Look to the Chimneys.

Be careful about the building of chimneys. Let them be curved rather than straight and see that the draft is good, for few things are so destructive of family good temper, of punctuality and of furniture as smoking chimneys. If you find that will not burn.—Boston Herald.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Cuticura. When she was a Child, she cried for Cuticura. When she became Miss, she clung to Cuticura. When she had Children, she gave them Cuticura.

The Topic of The Hour.

Within the past year, and especially within the past six months, finance has taken, as a topic of press discussion, the place occupied for several years past by the tariff. Contradictory and irreconcilable as are the positions, complex and confused as are the arguments, of the political parties and leaders of the country upon the tariff question, they are no less so upon the question of finance. The great political problem of the day in the United States is the problem of reforming the National currency. The man or woman who pretends to be well informed will not be content to learn the views of a few newspapers only upon the financial and other questions of the hour, but will seek in some way to get a survey of the press discussion in all parts of the country and upon all sides of the questions at issue. There is no way to get such a survey except by reading a journal that gives extracts and condensed statements from all the leading representative papers and reviews. Such a journal is Public Opinion, published weekly at Washington, D. C. In its particular field it is unique and unrivaled. It covers the entire range of current news and comment, political, sociological, financial, scientific, religious, literary, both American and foreign. In connection with the American Institute of Civics it has inaugurated an exceedingly helpful plan for the study of current topics. (A pamphlet containing details for the organization and conduct of clubs and valuable suggestions as to methods of work will be sent for ten cents; address, Extension Department, A. I. C., Box 348, Washington, D. C.) We can offer Public Opinion at a reduced rate if taken at once in connection with the BROOKENRIDGE NEWS. Back numbers can be had to complete the present volume, beginning January 1.

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